

The Honorable John C. Coughenour

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

BERNADEAN RITTMANN, *et al.*,  
on their own behalf and on behalf of others  
similarly situated,

v.

AMAZON.COM INC. and  
AMAZON LOGISTICS, INC.,  
  
Defendants.

Consolidated Action  
Case No. C16-1554-JCC

**PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO REMEDY  
AND SANCTION DEFENDANTS' *EX*  
*PARTE* COMMUNICATIONS**

**NOTE DATE: April 25, 2025**

**ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED**

PLS.' MOT. TO REMEDY AND  
SANCTION DEFENDANTS' *EX PARTE*  
COMMUNICATIONS

Case No. C16-01554-JCC

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Attorneys representing Amazon—including 22 attorneys from Littler Mendelson P.C.  
 3 who never entered an appearance in this case—recently contacted members of the certified  
 4 FLSA collective action and putative classes about this litigation. Through these unauthorized,  
 5 misleading, and coercive *ex parte* communications, Amazon procured 35 declarations that it  
 6 will no doubt seek to use against the FLSA collective, putative classes, and very drivers who  
 7 provided them.  
 8

9 Amazon’s *ex parte* communications failed to reference this case’s title, number, and  
 10 venue. They provided no information about Plaintiffs’ counsel, the certified collective, or the  
 11 putative classes. Nor did they contain a neutral description of this case, as the Court recently  
 12 determined was appropriate. (*See* Dkt. No. 422). Most egregiously, Amazon’s attorneys  
 13 withheld the fact that an authorized notice informing drivers of their right to opt into the  
 14 collective was forthcoming, which the Court has since approved. (*Id.*)  
 15

16 To remediate Amazon’s sanctionable conduct, the Court should: (1) bar Amazon and its  
 17 attorneys from further contacting drivers without leave of Court; (2) exclude from evidence all  
 18 declarations and voluntary interview consent forms obtained by Amazon’s counsel; (3) require  
 19 Amazon to immediately provide Plaintiffs with the names and contact information of all drivers  
 20 its attorneys contacted (whether or not they signed a declaration); (4) provide corrective notice  
 21 to all drivers that Amazon’s attorneys contacted, with Amazon bearing the cost; and (5) award  
 22 Plaintiffs their reasonable costs and attorney’s fees incurred in bringing this motion.  
 23  
 24  
 25

## II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On December 2, 2024, the Court granted Plaintiffs' motion for conditional certification of a nationwide FLSA collective action. (*See* Dkt. Nos. 381, 407). The Court conditionally certified a collective consisting of all Flex delivery drivers who worked for Amazon on or after October 27, 2013, and are not already represented by counsel on misclassification and related wage and overtime claims. (*See* Dkt. No. 407, at 1.) The Court further directed the parties to meet and confer regarding the content of its FLSA notice. (*Id.*)

On January 31, 2025, the parties filed their competing proposed FLSA notices and opt-in consent forms. (*See* Dkt. No. 407, at 1–7.) The parties' submissions reflected disagreements regarding the content and language of the proposed notice, including the terminology used to describe drivers, the inclusion of arbitration disclosures, and the explanation of Plaintiffs' wage claims. (*See* Dkt. No. 407, at 3–7.)

On March 27, 2025, the Court issued its officially approved notice. (*See* Dkt. No. 422.) The approved notice neutrally describes Plaintiffs' claims, identifies their counsel with contact information, and—most significantly—explains the right of each driver to opt into the FLSA collective. (*Id.*) The Court reasoned that this information was appropriate and necessary to prevent confusion and to allow drivers to make an informed decision about whether to join this case. (*Id.*)

## III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

As Plaintiffs have only recently learned, beginning in December 2024, at least 22 attorneys from Littler Mendelson—none of whom are counsel of record in this case—initiated direct, *ex parte* communications with members of the conditionally certified FLSA collective

1 and putative classes. While the full scope of their outreach is unknown, Amazon’s attorneys  
 2 obtained declarations from 35 drivers.<sup>1</sup>

3       These communications occurred during a critical procedural window: after the Court’s  
 4 conditional certification on December 2, 2024, but before the Court approved its form of notice  
 5 on March 27, 2025. (*Compare* Ex. A with Dkt. No. 422). In other words, Amazon’s *ex parte*  
 6 communications deliberately systematically bypassed the Court’s established notice process  
 7 and Plaintiffs’ counsel, deliberately circumventing the supervised communication protocol.  
 8

9       Amazon’s attorneys relied on their own unauthorized template for their interview  
 10 consent forms and declarations (without waiting for this Court to address the parties’  
 11 disagreements about how best to inform drivers about this case and how to describe their rights  
 12 and the claims being pursued). Those forms—filed here as Exhibit A—do not identify  
 13 Plaintiffs’ counsel, the driver’s right to opt into the collective, or this case’s title, number, or  
 14 venue, even though the Court has explicitly required this information to be included in the  
 15 FLSA notice. (*See* Dkt. No. 422–1, at 1–2.)  
 16

17       Although the forms acknowledge the granting of conditional certification, they  
 18 misleadingly state that drivers “may be a part of this collective.” (*See* Ex. A.) They do not  
 19 describe the drivers’ right to opt in to the case. And they do not disclose the identity of  
 20 Plaintiffs’ counsel, which courts recognize as important to allowing collective action members  
 21 to assess their rights.  
 22  
 23

---

24 <sup>1</sup> A full list of the drivers for whom Amazon has produced declarations, along with the  
 25 attorneys who contacted each driver, is included as Exhibit B.

In sum, Amazon's consent forms omit the following critical information:

- 1) The identity and contact information of Plaintiffs' counsel;
- 2) The name of this case, its number, and the Court's information;
- 3) The Court did not authorize the outreach;
- 4) Drivers have the right to opt into this case;
- 5) Drivers need to sign an opt-in consent form to participate in this case;
- 6) The Court is about to authorize formal notice of the certified collective;
- 7) None of the attorneys who conducted the outreach is counsel of record;
- 8) That Amazon can use the declarations against the drivers, including for impeachment purposes and as a means of decertifying the collective;
- 9) That Amazon can use the declarations to impeach the declarants and to disqualify them from participating in this case; and
- 10) That Amazon cannot retaliate against drivers who refuse to be interviewed or participate in this case.

Much of this information is included in the Court's approved notice, confirming its critical nature. (*See* Dkt. No. 422–1.)

#### **IV. ARGUMENT**

##### **A. Courts maintain the authority to manage communications with collective action members.**

The Supreme Court has long recognized that district courts' duty and broad authority to exercise control over class and collective actions and to issue appropriate orders governing the conduct of counsel and parties. *See Gulf Oil Co. v. Bernard*, 452 U.S. 89, 100–01 (1981).



1 Limitations on communications with potential class members are appropriate where necessary  
 2 to prevent serious abuses, including misleading or coercive communications that threaten the  
 3 fairness of the litigation. *Id.* at 101.

4 In *Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. v. Sperling*, 493 U.S. 165 (1989), the Court first emphasized  
 5 a district court’s responsibility to oversee the notice process in collective actions under the Fair  
 6 Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”) to counter misinformation and misuse. *Id.* at 171–72, 174. As  
 7 the Ninth Circuit recently put it, district courts have the “duty and power to oversee  
 8 communications from both defendants and class counsel with potential class members and  
 9 FLSA collective action participants.” *Dominguez v. Better Mortg. Corp.*, 88 F.4th 782, 791 (9th  
 10 Cir. 2023). The need for oversight is particularly acute, where, as here, the court grants  
 11 certification and oversees notice.  
 12

13 For instance, the Eleventh Circuit has warned about the dangers posed by unsupervised,  
 14 unilateral communications with potential class members, finding that such conduct deprives  
 15 absent parties of informed decision-making. *See Kleiner v. First Nat’l Bank of Atlanta*, 751  
 16 F.2d 1193, 1203 (11th Cir. 1985) (finding that “unsupervised, unilateral communications with  
 17 the plaintiff class sabotage the goal of informed consent by urging exclusion on the basis of a  
 18 one-sided presentation of the facts, without opportunity for rebuttal”). Notably, *Kleiner*  
 19 involved post-certification communications, where the court found such conduct particularly  
 20 problematic given the established representative relationship. Similarly, in *Li v. A Perfect Day*  
 21 *Franchise, Inc.*, 270 F.R.D. 509 (N.D. Cal. 2010), *ex parte* communications by the defendant  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

1 soliciting opt-outs were deemed inherently coercive and thus invalidated. *Id.* at 517–18, 520–  
2 21.<sup>2</sup>

3 Where parties engage in misleading, coercive, or otherwise improper *ex parte*  
4 communications with potential class members, courts may invoke their inherent power to  
5 impose sanctions, invalidate improperly obtained declarations or releases, and issue corrective  
6 notices to prevent prejudice.

7  
8 **B. For notice to be fair, improper *ex parte* communications must be barred.**

9 Communications with potential class and collective action members must be neutral,  
10 accurate, and free from coercion or misleading content. These concerns are particularly acute  
11 where, as here, *ex parte* communications occur after conditional certification but before court-  
12 approved notice has been issued. Such conduct risks creating confusion, impairing informed  
13 decision-making, and undermining the Court’s exclusive control over the notice process. *See*  
14 *Hoffmann-La Roche*, 493 U.S. at 170–72.

15  
16 To address these concerns, courts often rely on the authority granted by both Federal  
17 Rule of Civil Procedure 23(d) and Section 216(b) of the FLSA to regulate communications  
18 with class and collective members. *See Dominguez*, 88 F.4th at 791 (noting powers are the  
19 same). These provisions empower courts to protect absent parties’ rights and ensure the fair  
20 administration of justice. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(d); 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). “The key is whether  
21 there is ‘potential interference’ with the rights of the parties in a class action.” *O’Connor v.*  
22

23  
24 <sup>2</sup> Although *Li* addressed pre-certification communications, the court’s reasoning applies  
25 with even greater force to post-certification communications like those at issue here.

1 *Uber Techs., Inc.*, 2013 WL 6407583, at \*5 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 6, 2013) (quoting *Gulf Oil Co.*,  
2 452 U.S. at 100).

3 Courts in the Ninth Circuit, including this Court, have recognized that coercive or  
4 misleading communications justify judicial intervention to prevent potential interference. *See*  
5 *Wang v. Chinese Daily News, Inc.*, 623 F.3d 743, 756 (9th Cir. 2010), *cert. granted, judgment*  
6 *vacated on other grounds*, 565 U.S. 801 (2011) (“[D]istrict courts [have] the power to regulate  
7 the notice and opt-out processes and to impose limitations when a party engages in behavior  
8 that threatens the fairness of the litigation.”); *see also In re Victor Techs. Sec. Litig.*, 792 F.2d  
9 862, 864 (9th Cir. 1986). A court addressed improper pre-certification communications from a  
10 defendant employer in *Camp v. Alexander*, 300 F.R.D. 617 (N.D. Cal. 2014), where the  
11 employer’s *ex parte* letter was coercive and misleading, and that its solicitation of opt-outs  
12 undermined the class action process. *See id.* at 624–26. The court ordered curative notice to  
13 protect absent class members. *See id.*

14 Similarly, in *Salazar v. Driver Provider Phoenix LLC*, 532 F. Supp. 3d 832 (D. Ariz.  
15 2021), the Court addressed improper communications in an FLSA collective action that had  
16 been conditionally certified, as here. The court recognized that post-certification  
17 communications with collective action members carry an “inherent risk of prejudice and  
18 opportunities for impropriety” and found judicial intervention necessary to protect the integrity  
19 of the proceedings. *Id.* at 836, 839–40. Plaintiffs’ motion to limit further communications was  
20 granted and a curative notice to prevent ongoing prejudice was authorized. *Id.* at 839–40.  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

Even with pre-certification communications, courts typically issue a protective order restricting defendants' communications with putative class members upon a finding that the communications posed a serious risk of confusion and coercion, undermining the fairness of the class action process. *See, e.g., Babbitt v. Albertsons, Inc.*, No. C-92-1883, 1993 WL 128089, at \*2–3 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 28, 1993). These cases reflect a consistent principle recognized in this Circuit: courts must scrutinize and restrict *ex parte* communications with putative class and collective members to prevent coercion, misinformation, and interference with the court's management of the litigation.

**C. Sanctions are proper to remedy *ex parte* communications.**

Courts regularly impose corrective measures and sanctions—necessary to protect absent members from coercion, restore fairness, and deter future misconduct—where parties engage in improper communications with class or collective action members. Remedies include invalidating improperly obtained agreements, issuing corrective notices, and restricting further communications without court approval.

For example, in *Kirby v. Kindred Healthcare Operating, LLC*, 2020 WL 2504337 (C.D. Cal. May 15, 2020), the court found the defendant-obtained settlement agreements and declarations misleading and coercive, concluding that they undermined the fairness and integrity of the class notice and opt-out process. *See id.*, at \*2–3, 6. As a result, the court: (1) invalidated the settlements and declarations obtained through improper communications; (2) ordered the issuance of a court-approved corrective notice to all putative class members; and (3) prohibited defendants from engaging in further *ex parte* communications with putative class members without prior court approval. *See id.*, at \*6–7.

1 Similarly, in *Marino v. CACafe, Inc.*, 2017 WL 1540717 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 28, 2017), The  
 2 defendants failed to disclose the existence of the pending class action litigation and omitted  
 3 material facts about the nature of the claims at issue when obtaining releases and settlement  
 4 agreements. *See id.*, at \*1–2. The court: (1) invalidated all releases and settlement agreements  
 5 obtained through these improper communications; (2) ordered the issuance of a court-approved  
 6 corrective notice to inform class members of their rights and the status of the litigation; and (3)  
 7 prohibited defendants from making further communications to potential class members  
 8 regarding the case without prior court approval. *See id.*, at \*4. The court stressed that such  
 9 remedial measures were necessary to protect class members from confusion and  
 10 misinformation. *See id.*

12 The declarations obtained by Amazon could potentially be used to disqualify drivers  
 13 from joining the collective action, or impeach the drivers if they do choose to opt in, despite the  
 14 drivers having not yet received the Court-approved notice. The Court-authorized notice is  
 15 designed to inform putative members of the claims and their options in a way that is not “too  
 16 abstract and may well leave class members more confused by what is not said.” (*See* Dkt. No.  
 17 422, at 2.) Like the Court in *Marino*, this Court should invalidate and preclude any use of the  
 18 declarations that could be used against the rights the driver-declarants were not informed of.  
 19 *See Marino*, 2017 WL 1540717, at \*4.

21 Further, in *Wright v. Adventures Rolling Cross Country, Inc.*, 2012 WL 2239797 (N.D.  
 22 Cal. June 15, 2012), the court found that unsupervised, unilateral communications discouraging  
 23 participation and misstating the potential claims risked coercion and undermined the fairness of  
 24

1 the class action process. *See id.*, at \*2–3. As a remedial measure, the *Wright* court (1)  
 2 prohibited defendants from initiating any further *ex parte* communications with putative class  
 3 members without prior court approval, and (2) authorized plaintiffs to issue a court-approved  
 4 corrective notice to clarify the nature of the litigation and the rights of potential class members.  
 5 *See id.*, at \*5. Here, the Court has clearly noted the importance of correctly stating the claims of  
 6 the Plaintiffs. (Dkt. No. 422, at 2.) The outreach by Amazon’s counsel informs the drivers of  
 7 neither their rights nor the specific claims of the Plaintiffs.  
 8

9 These cases reflect a consistent principle recognized by courts: where parties engage in  
 10 improper communications with putative class and collective action members, as here, courts  
 11 may impose corrective measures and sanctions to remedy prejudice, deter future misconduct,  
 12 and preserve the integrity of judicial proceedings.  
 13

14 **D. Amazon’s *ex parte* communications were improper.**

15 Amazon’s *ex parte* communications directly contravene the Supreme Court’s mandate  
 16 in *Hoffmann-La Roche Inc.* that communications or notice be “timely, accurate, and  
 17 informative” as sufficiently neutral as this Court warrants. *Id.* at 172–74. Courts have the duty  
 18 and broad authority to protect against misleading communications to ensure fair and orderly  
 19 conduct within the litigation. *See id.*, at 170–72 (noting that because of “potential for abuse”  
 20 district courts have “both duty and broad authority to exercise control . . . and to enter  
 21 appropriate orders governing the conduct of counsel and the parties”). By orchestrating  
 22 systematic communications with drivers who were already members of the certified  
 23 collective—particularly during the critical period when the Court was actively supervising the  
 24 notice process—Amazon fundamentally undermined the Court’s authority in precisely the  
 25

1 manner that the Supreme Court cautioned against in *Hoffman-La Roche Inc.* and *Gulf Oil Co.*  
 2 As the *Salazar* court emphasized, “*ex parte* communication with putative FLSA collective  
 3 action members about the case has an inherent risk of prejudice and opportunities for  
 4 impropriety.”<sup>3</sup> See *Salazar*, 532 F. Supp. 3d at 836.

5 Here, Amazon deliberately initiated contacts *after* the Court conditionally certified the  
 6 FLSA collective—i.e., when the Court’s exclusive control over communications was  
 7 triggered—making its conduct particularly egregious. Worse yet, Amazon relied on misleading  
 8 forms that omitted (what the Court has now recognized to be) critical information, including  
 9 the identity of this case and Plaintiffs’ counsel. Amazon’s conduct has directly undermined the  
 10 Court’s ability to issue “‘timely, accurate, and informative’ as well as sufficiently neutral.”  
 11 (Dkt. No. 422, at 2 (quoting *Hoffman-La Roche Inc.*, 493 U.S. at 172–74).)

12 Amazon might argue that the drivers it contacted are unrepresented until they  
 13 affirmatively opt into this litigation. Even if that were true, Amazon’s communications with  
 14 these drivers were still improper for five reasons.  
 15  
 16

17 First, Amazon’s standardized declaration and consent forms misrepresented the drivers’  
 18 legal status and concealed essential information. Rather than informing drivers of their right to  
 19 opt into the certified collective, the forms misleadingly stated that drivers “may be a part of this  
 20 collective.” (See Ex. 1, at 7–8.) The forms also failed to mention whether the drivers fall within  
 21 the putative classes. Critically, Amazon omitted the identity of Plaintiffs’ counsel and this  
 22

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23 <sup>3</sup> The *Salazar* Court notes the “inherent risk of prejudice” of pre-certification *ex parte*  
 24 communication. 532 F. Supp. 3d at 826. Thus, *Salazar* is particularly instructive because this  
 25 Court has already granted conditional certification.

1 case's name, docket number, or venue and did not include the neutral description of the claims  
2 in this case, which the Court ultimately adopted in the approved notice. (*Id.*)

3 This Court need not look further than the Court-approved notice to the FLSA collective  
4 to identify what critical information must have been included in Amazon's outreach. In the  
5 order issuing the form of notice, this Court notes the necessity "to inform potential members  
6 about the basis of the claims here" and for the potential members to be fully informed of the  
7 identification of Plaintiffs' counsel and their rights in—particularly the right to opt into—the  
8 ongoing matter. (*See* Dkt. No. 422 at 2–3; Dkt. No. 422–1, at 1–2.)

10 By contrast, Amazon's *ex parte* communications mirror the "one-sided presentation of  
11 facts without opportunity for rebuttal" that the court in *Kleiner* found to "sabotage the goal of  
12 informed consent." *See Kleiner*, 751 F.2d at 1203. By deliberately concealing the identity of  
13 Plaintiffs' counsel and this case, Amazon deprived drivers of information necessary to make an  
14 informed decision about whether to provide sworn testimony to an adverse party. This kind of  
15 calculated manipulation of the judicial process—carried out behind the Court's back—demands  
16 sanctions. *See id.*, at 1209–10.

18 Second, the timing of Amazon's *ex parte* communications is especially troubling.  
19 Amazon's attorneys began contacting drivers in December 2024, right after the Court  
20 conditionally certified the collective action. They continued contacting drivers through March  
21 2025, even as the Court was actively considering what language to include in its official notice.

23 As reflected by the interview dates, Amazon's outreach spanned several months, with  
24 interviews occurring as late as March 12, 2025—mere weeks before the Court issued its



1 approved notice. But Amazon never informed the Court or Plaintiffs of its outreach to drivers  
2 (much less requested consent to do so). The timing and secrecy of these *ex parte*  
3 communications support only one conclusion: Amazon sought to prejudice Plaintiffs by  
4 undermining this Court's control over the notice process. Such premeditated misconduct  
5 warrants sanctions. *See Li*, 270 F.R.D. at 517–18.

6  
7 Third, the involvement of 22 Littler Mendelson attorneys who have not entered  
8 appearances in this case adds another significant layer of impropriety. Perhaps worried about  
9 being disqualified from this case, Amazon's counsel of record turned to attorneys who have not  
10 even entered appearances in this case. These attorneys conducted interviews and obtained  
11 declarations from collective action members without any notice to Plaintiffs' counsel or  
12 authorization from the Court. This lack of transparency heightened the risk of confusion, thus  
13 requiring remedial action. *See Babbitt*, 1993 WL 128089, at \*2–3.

14  
15 Fourth, Amazon exploited a profound imbalance of power. During ongoing litigation,  
16 attorneys acting on behalf of Amazon, directly approach Amazon Flex drivers (many of whom  
17 are dependent on Amazon for their livelihood, or at least some of their income) without  
18 providing them with the identity of this case or Plaintiffs' counsel. The strategic timing and  
19 opaque presentation intensified drivers' vulnerability, amplifying the coercive impact  
20 recognized and condemned by courts in similar contexts.

21  
22 Amazon's attorneys deliberately exploited this vulnerability by targeting drivers during  
23 the critical window between certification and court-approved notice—precisely when drivers  
24 were most vulnerable to misinformation and least likely to understand their rights as collective  
25

members. Considering the inherently misleading and coercive nature of these omissions, consistent with judicial actions in *Marino* and *Salazar*, this Court should exclude the improperly obtained declarations and consent forms from evidence, issue corrective notices, and require immediate disclosure of all affected collective members. *See Salazar*, 532 F. Supp. 3d at 840; *Marino*, 2017 WL 1540717, at \*4.

Fifth, Washington Rule of Professional Conduct 4.2 bars attorneys from communicating about the subject of a representation with persons known to be represented by counsel. Courts routinely apply Rule 4.2, or its ABA Model Rule equivalent, in collective action contexts, holding that, following certification, the defendant and defense counsel must treat class members as represented by counsel.<sup>4</sup> *See In re Shell Oil Refinery*, 152 F.R.D. 526, 528–29 (E.D. La. 1989) (holding that Rule 4.2 applied to prohibit *ex parte* contact with class members following certification); *see also Belt v. EmCare, Inc.*, 299 F. Supp. 2d 664, 668 (E.D. Tex. 2003). Amazon’s attorneys knew that these drivers were putative members of the conditionally certified collective and thus have interests represented by Plaintiffs’ counsel. Their willful circumvention of this ethical obligation is even more concerning, given that multiple Littler Mendelson attorneys initiated these contacts without entering their appearances.

As in *Wright*, decisive remedial action is needed here. 2012 WL 2239797, at \*3, 5 (holding that unsupervised and misleading contacts undermined the fairness of the class action

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<sup>4</sup> Even if this Court determines that these drivers are unrepresented, Washington Rule of Professional Conduct 4.3 requires lawyers to “explain that the client has interests opposed to those of the unrepresented person.” Simply stating that one’s “rights may be affected,” as Amazon’s attorneys did, is insufficient.

1 and warranted curative measures). The Court should order corrective notice to all drivers that  
 2 Amazon contacted, exclude the declarations and voluntary interview consent from evidence,  
 3 bar Amazon from contacting drivers about this litigation, and award Plaintiffs their reasonable  
 4 attorney's fees and costs for bringing this motion.

5 **E. The requested relief is necessary to correct Amazon's misconduct.**

6 **1. *Corrective notice should be issued to the affected drivers.***

7  
 8 Corrective notice is essential to remedy the confusion created by Amazon's counsel's  
 9 improper communications with drivers. Courts consistently authorize such notices when  
 10 improper *ex parte* communications threaten to undermine participation in collective actions. In  
 11 *Salazar*, the Court recognized that post-certification communications carrying an "inherent risk  
 12 of prejudice and opportunities for impropriety" warranted a corrective notice to ensure potential  
 13 collective members received accurate information. *See Salazar*, 532 F. Supp. 3d at 836, 839–  
 14 40. Plaintiffs will submit proposed language if the Court agrees that corrective notice is  
 15 warranted.  
 16

17 **2. *The declarations of all drivers contacted should be precluded.***

18 The Court should exclude Amazon's driver declarations and voluntary interview  
 19 consent forms from evidence. As explained above, these declarations lack critical disclosures  
 20 and were obtained by attorneys who are not Amazon's counsel of record through secret  
 21 outreach that undermined the Court's supervisory authority. Courts routinely exclude  
 22 statements obtained by defendants through such improper communications, and this Court  
 23 should do the same. *See Gulf Oil Co.*, 452 U.S. at 100; *Hoffman-La Roche Inc.*, 493 U.S. at  
 24 170–72; *Kirby*, 2020 WL 4639493, at \*6; *Marino*, 2017 WL 1540717, at \*3. The integrity of  
 25

1 the judicial process requires that parties like Amazon not benefit from circumventing judicial  
 2 oversight, especially when misleading communications are involved.

3 **3. *Amazon should be barred from further unauthorized contact with Flex***  
 4 ***drivers.***

5 In *Dominguez*, Defendant Better Mortgage reached out to employees to “obtain factual  
 6 information to defend itself” in the ongoing litigation. 88 F.4th at 792. That is exactly what  
 7 Amazon did here. Within the voluntary consent forms, the Littler Mendelson attorneys state  
 8 they intend to “interview [the driver] about the facts alleged in the lawsuit so that [we] can  
 9 prepare the Company’s defense.” As the Ninth Circuit found in *Dominguez*, future  
 10 communications should be barred where, as here, past communications were misleading,  
 11 coercive, and intended to prejudice the opposing party. *See id.*, at 791–93. Such a tailored and  
 12 reasonable remedy is warranted.  
 13

14 **V. CONCLUSION**

15 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court enter an order:  
 16 (1) barring Amazon and its attorneys from further contacting drivers without leave of Court; (2)  
 17 excluding from evidence all declarations and voluntary interview consent forms obtained by  
 18 Amazon’s counsel; (3) providing corrective notice to all drivers that Amazon’s attorneys  
 19 contacted, with Amazon bearing the expense of such corrective notice; (4) requiring Amazon to  
 20 immediately produce to Plaintiffs the names and contact information of all drivers its attorneys  
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 26

1 contacted (whether or not they signed a declaration)<sup>5</sup>; and (5) awarding Plaintiffs their  
2 reasonable costs and attorney's fees for bringing this motion.

3  
4 Dated: April 4, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

5  
6 BERNADEAN RITTMANN, *et al.*,  
on their own behalf and on behalf of others  
7 similarly situated,

8 By their attorneys,

9 *I certify that this brief does not exceed 4,200*  
10 *words in compliance with the Local Civil Rules.*

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21  
22

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23 <sup>5</sup> Amazon should not be permitted to use any information it obtained through these  
24 unauthorized contacts. It should be required to destroy any communications, notes, and other  
25 information it obtained regarding the drivers it contacted.